

Appl. No. 09/731,226
Amdt. dated February 2, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 30, 2003

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed on December 30, 2003.

Prior to entry of this Amendment, claims 1-5 were previously canceled and claims 6-12 were pending. In this Amendment, claims 6-9 are canceled, and claims 10-12 are unamended so that claims 10-12 would be pending.

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that claims 6-9 are rejected as obvious over Barr et al., and that claims 10-12 are allowed.

In response, claims 6-9 are canceled and claims 10-12 are not amended so this application should be in condition for allowance. By canceling claims 6-9, Applicant does not admit that the rejection based on Barr et al. is proper. Applicant reserves the right to pursue different and/or broader claims in a subsequent divisional or continuation filing.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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